



March, 1992

Volume XXIII Number 2

FREE

CELEBRATING "MS. ROSE"



Rosa Hammock, for many years the mainstay of the Potrero Hill Rec Center at Arkansas and Madera Streets, is retiring this month from her job as Recreation Director. A special day of celebration for her is planned on Saturday, March 21, with a car caravan winding through the Hill, and ending at the Rec Center for eats and entertainment.

Jon Greenberg photo

Waterfront Union's Herman Feted Upon Retirement

By Ruth Passen

More than 700 people gathered Feb. 8 at the Sheraton Palace Hotel to honor Hill resident Jim Herman upon his recent retirement as President of the Intl. Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union.

Herman was lionized by labor leaders and political representatives, as well as community and religious leaders at the event. Also saluting Herman at the dinner was newly elected Mayor Frank Jordan, and former San Francisco Mayors Joseph Alioto, Dianne Feinstein and Art Agnos. The retired ILWU President and longtime Hill resident will also be honored by a neighborhood reception March 11.

Born in Newark, New Jersey, Herman went to sea at age 16, working on a

freighter during World War II. He eventually landed in San Francisco and settled into ILWU Ship Clerks Local 34, where he was elected vice president in 1960, and president a year later. In 1977 he was elected to the ILWU presidency after the union's only other president, Harry Bridges, retired.

Along with his many years in the labor movement, Herman has been most active in recent years with Delancey Street, a drug and alcohol rehabilitation program. Delancey's president, Mimi Silbert, praised Herman as having "transformed thousands of lives in our program. I can't remember anyone's name, but Jim knows their names and remembers their

(Continued on Page 5)

Cuts May Leave Library Open Only Twice a Week

By Judy Baston

Potrero Hill residents may well find their branch library open only two days a week if the 10 percent across-the-board budget cut requested by Mayor Frank Jordan takes effect later this year.

Responding to Jordan's cutback request, the Library Commission Feb. 21 voted to send two proposals to the newly-elected Mayor. One actually requests \$1.7 million more for the library system and would enable restoration of all the services that have been cut back in the last few years, including the second librarian at the Potrero Branch, whose position was slashed last year.

The second set of figures — the one that complies with the Mayor's request for the cutback — reflects some \$1.7 million less in the library system budget — \$800,000 of which would come from the neighborhood branches.

The way the Library Commission proposes to accomplish this branch cutback is to "pair" library staff in two branches, and open each branch only two days per week. Open hours would include one evening and possibly two, but libraries would not be open on Saturdays because of staff rotation problems.

Even though the proposed \$800,000 savings represents a loss of 15 employees — 10 percent of the 158 employees assigned to branches — because of scheduling difficulties, the proposed cut in open branch hours represents a loss to neighborhood readers that is far higher than 10 percent. The cutback would affect all neighborhood branches and reading centers except for the city's six large Resource Branches, which would stay open six days a week.

Tentatively Potrero Branch, which is currently open 27 hours per week, spread over five days, is slated to be "paired" with the Glen Park Reading Center, which is now open 20 hours per week.

Since as a Reading Center Glen Park

now has no Librarian, it is possible that Potrero Branch Librarian Debby Jeffery could continue to work at both branches. But because of civil service classification questions it is not certain whether long-time Potrero Library Technician Lois Bailey would be able to continue to serve the branch under the 'pairing' system.

Chief of Branches Neel Parikh and Library Commission Finance and Operations Committee Chair Dale Carlson will meet with Potrero Branch patrons about the possible cutbacks on Wednesday, April 1 at 7 p.m. at the branch's upstairs meeting room.

From now through April, the Mayor's Office will be preparing the city budget. Recommendations for Library service reductions are totally determined by the Mayor. Once the Mayor's budget is completed, the Board of Supervisors can only delete budget items; they cannot add anything to the budget except money for books.

The reduction proposals reflected Library Commission decisions to make no further cuts in an already bare-bones book budget; to avoid actually closing any branch libraries, and to spread any required cutbacks between the branches, the main library and the technical services division.

Neighborhood residents are being urged to write to Mayor Jordan opposing the proposed branch cutback and to stress that it would mean a 40 percent reduction in the children's Summer Reading Program, a major decrease in book circulation and deterioration of an already thin branch collection; and the inability of young people to get homework help from libraries.

"Public support for the concept of the New Main will diminish rapidly under the impact of reduced neighborhood services," charged members of the Council of Neighborhood Libraries in a Feb. 21 letter to Jordan.

GETTING INVOLVED

The Garden Club will hold a seed swap, and discussion with Alan Rohatch, Wednesday, March 18, at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House at 953 De Haro St., in the Game Room. Starts at 6:30 p.m.

The Potrero Hill Democratic Club will hold its regular meeting Tuesday, March 10, at 7 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro. Also a dinner honoring Jim Herman, former president of the Intl. Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) will be held Wednesday night, March 11, at the Club Sahara, 444 De Haro St. It starts at 6 p.m., and costs \$25 per person.

PLAN, the Potrero League of Active Neighbors, will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 11, at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fraser Room.

Potrero Hill Boosters hold their meeting the last Tuesday of the month upstairs at the branch Library, 1616-20th St. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. Be there at 7 p.m. for a half-hour of socializing.

Potrero Hill Patients Advisory Council, Monday, March 30 at 6 p.m., to discuss how coming budget cuts will affect the health care of Potrero Hill patients. Caleb Clark Clinic, 1050 Wisconsin St.

Meeting of Hill Library patrons with Chief of Branches Neel Parikh and Library Commission Finance and Operations Committee Chair Dale Carlson to discuss proposal to cut branch to only two open days per week. Wednesday, April 1 at 7 p.m.



"OH - YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO HOLD ON TO THE LEASH?"

IN OUR VIEW

IT'S NO FABLE

There is something about this time of year — a time when draconian cuts are first proposed to meet big budget deficits — that is reminiscent of the fables we first heard as children.

On the one hand, there was "Chicken Little," who kept saying "the sky is falling" even when it wasn't. And on the other, there was "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" so often that when the wolf eventually showed up, no one would believe it.

So when the Mayor asks for a 10 percent across-the-board budget cut from all city department heads, and the Library Commission, for example, responds with the grim warning that such a cut would mean closing branch libraries all but two days a week, is it, in fact, a fable? Is the sky, in fact, falling? Is the wolf actually showing up at the door?

Over the last 10 years it has become common for the budget process to begin with predictions of doom — multi-million dollar shortfalls, major cuts in services — and end with a final outcome far less drastic than first expected. But frequently it's no mere coincidence when significant budget cuts are reversed; it's the result of hard work at the neighborhood level by residents who force public decision-makers to pay attention to political power.

Opportunities for this kind of involvement are part of a long tradition on Potrero Hill — and this year is no exception. On March 30, there will be a meeting of the Patients Advisory Council to the Hill's Caleb Clark Clinic. On the agenda will be this year's budget perspective. The Clinic has been operating minus a full-time security guard and without the necessary complement of support staff it needs. Will there finally be enough funds in this year's budget to cover these crucial positions? With more of the clinic's funds coming from the city and less from federal sources, participation in meetings about the clinic's finances becomes even more important.

And, of course, attendance at the April 1 session at the Potrero Library, as well as letters and telephone calls to the Mayor's Office about the effect of leaving the library open only two days a week, could indeed show the Mayor that people in this community care deeply about our access to knowledge.

Will this year's budget picture be the false panic of "the sky is falling," or will the wolf actually show up at the door — with a sign that says, "Closed"?

In some ways, the choice is up to us.



Masthead design by
Giacomo Patri

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Editorial and policy decisions are made by the staff. All staff positions are voluntary. Published once a month except January.

Address all correspondence to THE POTRERO VIEW, 953 De Haro St., San Francisco, Ca. 94107. Telephone: 824-7516

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THE POTRERO VIEW is printed at Howard Quinn, a union shop.



LETTERS

Planning Unresponsive

Editor:

A Potrero view is an oxymoron, or at the very least, it has become an endangered species. In your editorial of February, 1992, "Keep a Close Watch," you accurately state that "Planning decisions reflect major directions for the social fabric of San Francisco." Further on, you ask, "Will single-family residences be torn down and replaced with expensive multi-unit condos?"

I propose that your question should have been, will affordable housing continue to be torn down under the new city administration? Or will the new administration support the maintenance of neighborhood character by encouraging up-keep of single-family residences? Will it be business as usual at the Planning Dept., where demolitions of affordable housing continue to be approved under the guise of phony renovations?

If current events foreshadow the future, then the future is not looking good for the integrity of Potrero Hill as a neighborhood. An example of this can be seen at 24th and Dellaro Sts. where a single-family house was recently torn down and is now being replaced by a multi-unit condo. And, although the design of this building may be an architectural wet dream for a few, it is a nightmare for the rest of us. It is completely out of character with the surrounding neighborhood. And, its five stories of bulk casts shadows on its neighbors and it blocks views from neighboring homes and open space.

The architects for the above project, Kotas Pantaleoni, have been rather active around Potrero Hill lately. They recently built the big, big building with the black garage door next to the fire house on Wisconsin Street, and they are now preparing to build 23 condos at Texas and Mariposa Streets. However, if they are to proceed with their project, they are required by law to have a Conditional Use Permit. What this means is that their plan could not go forward without this special permit because it violates the minimum standards for rear yard open space. Planning staff recommended to the Planning Commission on February 13 that a Conditional Use Permit be granted.

The Planning Dept. must stop kowtowing to developers and their increasing demands for more square footage. The Planning Dept. must be more responsive to the community's concerns about keeping our neighborhood liveable.

Christopher Sabre
23rd Street

Ridiculous Experiments

Editor:

The claim is often made that all animal research conducted in U.S. laboratories is necessary. But we have recently learned of some entirely senseless "research" that casts grave doubt on that assertion.

The U.S. Tobacco industry has, for years, been conducting experiments on thousands of dogs, cats, mice and mon-

keys in a futile attempt to disprove the well-established link between cigarette smoking and lung cancer, heart disease and other ailments. In fact, the industry spends \$18 million a year on its "research" projects, many of which involve severe suffering and eventual death to untold numbers of animals.

Typical smoking "research" includes cutting holes into the throats of beagles, hooking them up to cigarette smoking machines and forcing them to inhale concentrated smoke until they are finally killed and their lungs dissected. Other dogs have electrodes inserted into their penises so that the effects of nicotine on sexual performance can be measured. Then they are killed.

To millions of Americans, the thought of these ridiculous experiments carried out on man's best friend is reprehensible. RJR Nabisco, makers of MILKBONES, funds many of these experiments. If you would like to write a protest letter please address it to Mr. Louis Gerstner, President, RJR Nabisco, 1201 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019. It's time concerned citizens do what they can to help these idiots see the light!

Patricia Haslett
Kansas Street
Lorri Levy-Comer
20th Street

King Pool Update

Editor:

Ms. Roberta Callahan

Dear Ms. Callahan:

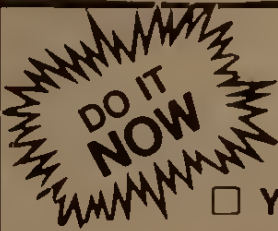
I am responding to your letter to the Editor of the Potrero View concerning heating of the locker rooms in Martin Luther King swimming pool. At present there is only one furnace unit functioning which provides heat to the locker rooms. The thermostat is located in the pool office area, a much smaller space than the locker rooms; therefore the office reaches a warmer temperature faster than the locker rooms and the thermostat switches off before the locker rooms are adequately heated.

I have spoken with the Aquatics Division Supervisor in charge of Martin Luther King pool who will inform his staff to monitor the vent into the office and the thermostat to optimize the temperature in the locker rooms.

Future repairs will be made at King pool when, and if, funding becomes available. Your estimate of the costs associated with replacing the heating system at the pool (\$250,000) is very high. After conferring with our Chief Stationary Engineer, I learned that an estimate of costs would be much lower.

Until new equipment can be installed, I believe that the measures I have suggested to Aquatics will improve the ambient temperature in the locker rooms at Martin Luther King pool

Michael Morlin
Acting Assistant Superintendent
of Parks



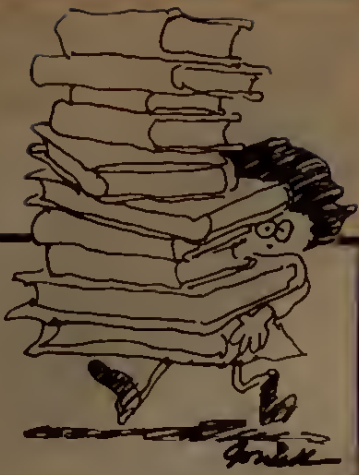
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LIBRARY NEWS
POTRERO BRANCH
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Closed Monday
Tuesday 1 - 6 pm
Wednesday 1 - 8 pm
Thurs., Fri., & Sat. 1 - 6 pm

SPECIAL EVENTS

Volunteers are needed to plan and set up the 37th Annual Potrero Hill Artist's Show. This year it will be held April 25 - May 16. Call Debby if you'd like to help. All Potrero Hill artists are invited to submit works of art for this important event.

Do you need help with your taxes? Tax volunteers will be on hand at the library every Saturday in March and part of April from 1-5 p.m. They will assist with 1040 EZ, 1040 A and all schedules, and 1040 with schedules A, B and D. This year the library no longer distributes tax forms. Call 1-800-TAX-FORM for federal and 1-800-852-5711 for state forms.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Storyteller Carol Alexander tells tales on Saturday, March 14 at 2 p.m. Infant-Toddler Time for children aged birth to three years is every Thursday at 1:30 p.m. Family Story Time for children age three and older is Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Preschool Films for ages 3-5 will be shown Tuesday, March 17 at 10 a.m.:

MUNI - BART Tix at NABE

MUNI and BART tickets are available at the Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St., Mondays through Fridays, during office hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Senior Muni \$4.50
Youth Muni \$5.00
Senior BART \$1.60

For more information
- call 826-8080

"Frog and Toad Together," "Caps for Sale," and "Caterpillar and the Polliwog." Family Films for ages three and older are slated for Wednesday, March 18 at 7 p.m.: "Emperor's New Clothes" and "Frog and Toad Together."

NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS

"A Carpenter," by Douglas Florian, introduces toddlers to basic tools and construction. In "Rosebud and Red Flannel," a snobbish nightgown finds true love with shy longjohns on a clothesline in this delightful bedtime story by Ethel Pochocki.

Arnold Adoff's new book, "Hard to be Six," is about a boy who wants to grow up fast but learns patience from his grandmother. "Bear" is a delightful new board book by Jill Winjgard that babies will enjoy.

NEW BOOKS FOR ADULTS

The latest adult reads: for mystery fans, Bill Pronzini's "Quarry" continues the "Nameless Detective" series. In "Revenge," 20 tales by such women writers as Alice Walker, Ellen Gilchrist and Ruth Rendell, the reader explores vengeance from the female perspective.

Thulani Davis takes us to a southern town on the brink of change in "1959." Davis has, in "1959," been compared to Carson McCullers and James Baldwin. For those of you waiting for the sequel to the "Way of the Peaceful Warrior," it has arrived: "Sacred Journey of the Peaceful Warrior" by Don Millman. For Fay Weldonites: her latest effort, "Life Force," romps through our experience of love, sex and marriage in vintage style.

- Debby Jeffrey and Martha Heverly

TEN YEARS AGO

In The View.

MURAL FINALLY INSTALLED: Margo Bors' mural depicting historic and contemporary Potrero Hill was finally installed at the Potrero Branch library on 20th St., reported the March, 1982 View.

NEW HOUSING APPROVED FOR WISCONSIN SITE: It was Page One news that the S.F. Planning Commission had unanimously approved a plan to build subsidized housing on city-owned land on the south slope of Potrero Hill. The plan called for units to be priced in three ranges - for low, moderate and middle-income buyers. Supporters speaking for the plan at the Commission hearing included then-Assemblyman Art Agnos, International Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) president Jim Ilerman (Agnos was then a resident of the Hill, Ilerman still is) and representatives of local groups such as the Potrero League of Active Neighbors (PLAN) and the Neighborhood House.

"CAPTAIN IS FRUSTRATED," a headline on Page three reported. The officer noted was Potrero Station police Captain Paul Kotta who was responding to citizen complaints about open and flagrant narcotics activity on Third Street in the Bayview and Hunters Point areas. At a Police Community Relations meeting he charged that the District Attorney's office was not taking the drug problem seriously, allowing repeat offenders to be released from jail. "One person was arrested four days in a row, and each time he is back he virtually thumbs his nose at the police," The View quoted Kotta as saying.

PINK SLIPS FOR FIGONE WORKERS: A landmark Potrero district business abruptly closed up Jan. 29, 1982, when C.J. Figone & Son, a meat-packing plant at 19th and Tennessee Sts., closed its doors without warning. The embittered workers blamed the company for bad management while owner Charles Figone elaimed that "because of the g— d— ! union there is no way a meat packer can make a profit in this town." The union charged that the company president had deliberately sacrificed the meat packing plant with 35 employees for a less labor-intensive cold storage business. Whatever the case, the workers were left out in the cold.

TENANTS CONTINUE STRIKE: The six-month-old rent strike at the Potrero Housing Projects continued. Tenants were depositing monthly rents into a trust account until the city's Housing Authority addressed a number of grievances mostly concerned with repairs and maintenance.

This and That: Sabrina Allen was the recipient of a bunch of athletic awards. She won the MVP award for girls' basketball and the Girl Athlete of the Year award from the Police Athletic League (PAL). She also shared the Girl Athlete of the Year award with Kuzuri Jackson at the Potrero Rec Center, and won the 8th grade basketball team award. . . . Picket lines appeared at the Galleria on Henry Adams (Kansas) St. in an on-going dispute between Galleria management and Building Service International Union, Local 87, over Galleria's use of non-union janitors. . . . The Julian Theater was showing "Back to Back," an award-winning play by Al Brown about the Vietnam War.

- Vas Arnautoff

LIFT EVERY VOICE



The Potrero Library hosted a special Black History program Feb. 15, with events for children, and later a performance by the Providence Male Chorus. Library Technician Lois Bailey (left) looks on.

Debby Jeffery photo



PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

Potrero Hill Neighborhood House

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Enola D. Maxwell, Executive Director

Youth Council Meetings - Wed., 6 p.m.
Girls Club Meetings - Mon., 5-7 p.m.
Omega Boys Club Meetings - 1st & 3rd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.
Every Tues., 7:30 p.m.

Study Hall - Tues., 5-7 p.m.
Juvenile Diversion
Tutorial Program
Job Referral
Al-Anon - Thurs., 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Alcohol Anonymous - Sun/Mon/Thurs, 8:30 p.m.
Cocaine Anonymous - Sat., 6-7 p.m.

Social Development Center: For developmentally disabled adults. Basic education, cultural enrichment, consumer and health education, field trips, sensorimotor development, work training, leisure time use, group and individual counseling.
Senior Citizens Program: Hot lunches every weekday (at small cost). Activities include - bingo games, information and referral, counseling, social hour, games and recreation.
Classes: Photography, Arts & Crafts.
Potrero Hill Neighborhood Theatre (cost, \$5-7 per performance).

Facilities:

Meeting spaces available for use by community groups
Auditorium for theatre presentations, lectures, workshops and receptions
Gymnasium and recreational space
Photographic workshop
Bulletin board with job and events listings
Mini-park
Child Development Center (for pre-school children)

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Buy Art or Make Your Own At Hill Gallery/Workshops

By Cydney Erickson-Feinstein

Two unique shops on Potrero Hill, Dragon's Lair Glass Works and Collage Studio/Gallery, not only have beautiful jewelry, paintings, collages and stained glass windows for sale but also offer the opportunity to learn how to make one's own objects d'art. The owners of the galleries say that by offering classes and workshops they hope to share their enthusiasm for their respective crafts and to encourage a sense of community with other Hill residents, artists and non-artists alike.

The Dragon's Lair, located at 1399 - 18th Street, features the stained glass creations of its owner, Thomas West, as well as the handcrafted goods of other local artists. West's passion for stained glass began after years of exploring different art forms, including pottery and theatre. When he took his first class in stained glass window making he knew "this was it," and his new found hobby quickly turned into an obsession.

As glass and tools began to take over more and more of his home, West realized it was time to get his own studio. While

still working as a legal secretary downtown four days a week, he opened The Dragon's Lair and worked there the remaining three. After a year of juggling two jobs, he knew it would take his full-time effort to become a successful working artist and businessperson.

West is a long time Potrero Hill resident and always wanted The Dragon's Lair to be a "neighborhood store." Though people come from throughout the City to commission stained glass windows from him, he says that his store is rooted in the Potrero Hill community. "I love it here. Being a part of this neighborhood has always been very important to me. I never wanted to open my shop anywhere else," he stresses.

He has been teaching classes four nights a week since he opened The Dragon's Lair three years ago. Concerned that the ancient art form of stained glass window design is in danger of becoming extinct, he hopes that his classes will ensure that others will have an opportunity to master and enjoy the art of "painting with glass."

Just down the street from The Dragon's Lair is Collage, a two month old gallery/studio owned by Elisabeth dePourtales and Delisa. The two friends and business partners found each other when dePour-



Collage is the newest gallery/workshop to open on the Hill. Jewelry and paintings are on exhibit and for sale. Other local artists also display work in the shop.



Thomas West (middle) works with students in his stained glass class on 18th Street. Many of the items are for sale. Jim Boldocchi photos

tales responded to an ad that Delisa placed in the View looking for "another artist to share a work space on the Hill." When they met for coffee the women immediately connected and found they had similar ideas and dreams about opening a gallery. "We saw eye to eye on so many things," says Delisa.

One partner was already living on the Hill and another had been "haunting the neighborhood for awhile" — both agreed that no other location would do. Serendipity soon smiled on the pair again and it was only a matter of weeks before their space at 1345 - 18th Street became available for rent.

The cozy, softly lit gallery features Delisa's handmade paper collages and vessels and Elisabeth's beaded jewelry and paintings. As part of their commitment "to support other artists in their journey," the gallery owners regularly display the work of other Potrero Hill artists.

Both artists agree that a gallery should feel comfortable and accessible to the public. "We don't want people to feel like they have to speak in hushed tones when they walk in here," Delisa emphasizes. Creating a supportive and reciprocal relationship between the community and artists is one of the gallery's main goals. As part of this effort to en-

courage community involvement and feedback, Delisa and dePourtales teach various one-day workshops, including "Hand-made Paper Collage" and "Painted Surfaces" (painting on non-traditional objects).

When asked about the daunting prospect of opening an art gallery in the middle of a recession, the pair acknowledged the risk but said, "So many things came together for us very quickly that we really felt we had the right idea at the right time. We chose to take a leap of faith and go for our dream, recession or not."

For more information about classes and workshops call:

- * The Dragon's Lair Glass Works - 695-0779;
- * Collage Studio/Gallery, 282-4401.



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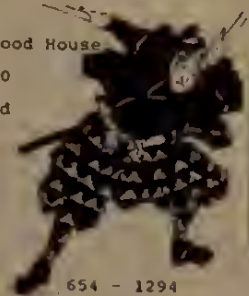
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WHEN: Saturdays - 11:00 - 1:30

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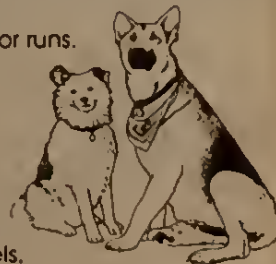
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Waterfront Union's Herman Feted Upon Retirement

(Continued from Page 1)

problems. He has gotten them interested in the world outside themselves, as well as renewing faith in themselves," Silbert said.

Crediting union workers with understanding the need to heed the call to help those less fortunate, Herman said, "hungry people, those degraded by racism, or who stand in line for food at Glide or St. Anthony's, or who spend the last part of their lives at hospices, are as much part of the ILWU as any member working in the fields, warehouses, or on the waterfront. We are in most trying times in this country where chances to work are slim — we have our work cut out for us."

"There are those who call this a recession — that's all horseshit!," Herman thundered. "It's a cold-blooded depression! We must re-affirm what we're about, and re-commit ourselves to a better society. I hope we can turn things

around."

Proceeds from the dinner will be divided between Delancey Street and two other social agencies with whom Herman has been involved for many years.

On March 11, the Potrero Hill Democratic Club will honor Herman for his lifelong contributions to the labor movement and the San Francisco waterfront.

Special guest speakers will include Assembly member and Hill resident John Burton and California Democratic Party Chair Phil Angelides. To recognize the significance of this election year, the evening's theme will be "How Democrats can make 1992 a victory year."

The March 11 dinner will be held at the Sahara Cafe, 444 De Haro St. (at 17th), with cocktails slated at 6 p.m., and dinner at 7 p.m.

Special club membership rates will be offered to Potrero Hill Democrats attending the dinner. Please call 821-6133 reservations.



Jim Herman, recently retired as President of the Intl. Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, was feted at a dinner February 8, and will be the honored guest at a dinner on the Hill in March. In photo above he is seen addressing a labor crowd.

Media Film Groups Set 'Sweet 16' Fete

Media Alliance (MA) and Film Arts Foundation (FAF), two of San Francisco's activist media organizations, are celebrating 16 years as leaders in the independent media scene in the Bay Area. Their "Sweet Sixteen" celebration is slated for March 14, at 9 p.m., at Olive Oil's, Pier 50, China Basin, in San Francisco. Promoting and defending principles of press freedom and accountability, the Media Alliance has grown to a membership of 2,700 media professionals and activists since its 1976 founding. Among their projects and services MA helps media workers find jobs, publishes **Media File** — a review of Bay Area media.

Film Arts Foundation, like Media Alliance, owes its birth to a small group of artist/activists in 1976. FAF provides support services to more than 2,000 Northern California independent film and videomakers. The largest regional organization of media artists in the country, FAF works to heighten public recognition and support of the vital cultural, social, and political roles of independent moving image media.

Public admission to the March 14 event is \$11 at the door; advance tickets are available for \$9 before March 12. For more information call MA at 441-2557, or FAF at 552-8760.

SAYONARA, TAKESHI

THINKING ABOUT TAKESHI

- He had big dreams, childlike dreams — out of reach.
- He had a warm heart, childlike heart — out of style.
- He was
A Japanese Country Boy
A student, teacher and singer.
A non-stop talker
a good deal of the time.
An artist and loyal friend
all of the time.
- He was
Hard to understand.
- He will be
Impossible to forget.
- Sayonara, Takeshi-san.
- Farewell, dreamer.



TAKESHI SUGIMOTO

Cline Hayward —

1938 — 1992



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Potrero - Based Job Training Builds Skills, Self - Esteem

By Lisa M. Dumont

A job training program begun in North Beach in 1978, and relocated from Hunter's Point to Potrero Hill in 1990, offers a rare opportunity to about 40 economically disadvantaged youths each year, about 30 percent of whom are from Potrero Hill. Located near the Potrero Terrace public housing, the Employment Training Center trains high-risk, economically disadvantaged youths of all racial backgrounds in the specific skills of construction and cabinet making, as well as in more general work and life skills that the trainees often lack.

The Employment Training Center is one of five programs run by the non-profit community development organization, Asian Neighborhood Design.

Its importance is reflected both in its success and its plans for the future. Zelda Saeli, program director for the Employment Training Center, notes that approximately 75 percent of the young adults who enter the four-month, part-time program complete it. And of these, approximately 75 percent find jobs in the area of construction or cabinet making within two months. Because there is currently a waiting list to get into the program, Saeli said plans are in place to increase the number of trainees allowed in the program each year.

Saeli believes that one of the most important aspects of the training program is the positive environment it provides. "For the most part, our trainees haven't had role models of people going out to work every day," she said. "And they haven't had people hold high expectations for them. What we try to do is give them role models. Hold them to high expectations. And give them a chance to gain some self-esteem."

Trainees work in the same facilities and use the same tools as professional cabinet makers who are part of another Asian Neighborhood Design program called Specialty Mill Products. They are thus daily exposed to skilled role models in a real work environment.

Trained by professional construction workers and cabinet makers, participants in the program, which is funded by the federal Job Training Partnership Act, get paid an hourly wage. "We try to simulate the environment of a real job so that our trainees will be prepared when they enter the work world. They have to punch a time-clock, they have to show up on time. We hold them accountable," Saeli said. "With the pay they earn, they're

able to buy a tape measure, work boots, whatever they need for the job. This is important for their self-esteem. Many of our people are exceedingly bright but have never had the opportunity to show it."

Besides positive role models, skills and money, the trainees get tangible proof that they are earning their pay and that they can make a difference. According to Saeli, the trainees do construction projects for local non-profit organizations. They make furniture that is loaned to low-income housing residents through a furniture loan program run by the Housing Advisory Center, another Asian Neighborhood Design program. And a couple of times a year they have a sale, open to the general public, of some of the products they have made.

Of Asian Neighborhood Design's large paid staff, one half-time and two full-time employees are devoted to the Employment Training Center. They provide a combination of job training and counseling. According to Saeli, herself a professional construction worker, the counseling is at least as important as the job training. "When you don't have stable housing, when you don't have a place to eat or hang your hat, when you're maybe in and out of jail, it's very difficult to concentrate on a job training program."

Besides plans to increase the number of students the program can accommodate each year, Saeli also has plans to increase the scope of the program in the near future, so that it will be full-time and include remedial training in basic math and reading skills, noting "most of our trainees have never had a job, few have graduated from high school. Going from a part-time training program to a full-time job can be difficult." Saeli believes that the transition will be smoother when the training program is full-time. "A full-time program will also give trainees more time in the positive environment of the program and less time in the negative and distracting environments where they typically spend the rest of their days," she emphasizes.

Asian Neighborhood Design does outreach work for the program in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. On the Hill it works with both the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House and the Omega Boys Club to try to reach potential trainees.

To learn more about the program and the qualifications for a trainee, call Saeli at (415) 648-7070. Saeli also encourages non-profit organizations in need of construction work to contact her.



Apprentices Michael Jefferson and Jeffrey Pelesuma (foreground) work on the construction site of apartments being built at the foot of Connecticut Street.

Steve Horper photo

Library Sets Final Meeting Rules

The City Library Commission last month adopted final revisions of its meeting room policy, guaranteeing that public notice of all meetings in branch library meeting rooms will be posted at least 72 hours before the meeting. The policy also stresses that meeting rooms can be allocated on a citywide basis, and notes that "the Library reserves the right to attend any meeting held in its facilities to ensure no unlawful activities are occurring on Library premises."

"The Library serves as an important educational facility for children and youth," the policy affirms, "and its rules must be applied in a manner that takes particular account of their safety and welfare."

Although changes to the policy were already underway, discussion of the policy

followed closely on the heels of the controversy over the discovery that the North American Man/Boy Love Assn. (NAMBLA) had been meeting at the Potrero Branch's upstairs meeting room unbeknownst to neighborhood residents.

Following the controversy, NAMBLA has indicated it will hold no more meetings at the Potrero Library. Under the new rules, if the group were to reapply, it could be assigned space away from a residential branch.

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The Cartoon Art Museum, 665 Third St., presents a program of guest Artists in Residence, 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, throughout the month of March, and "Women in the Arts" panel discussion, 6:30-9 p.m. Mar. 19. There is an admission fee. Call for more info, 546-9481.

The S.F. Community Music Center will register new students for Spring classes on Friday, Mar. 27 from 3-7 p.m., and on Saturday, Mar. 28, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at both of their locations, 544 Capp St. in the Mission District and 741 30th Ave. in the Richmond District. Spring classes begin April 6. Tuition fees for all programs are based on a sliding scale. Adult students and parents of students may also enroll in the Center's work-study program. For more info call 647-6015.

Interested in night photography classes? Check out Steve Harper's workshop during a full moon period in Death Valley in April. For a prospectus contact him at Art Associated, 1419-19th St., S.F. 94107, or call 648-6120.

A million and a half Americans will suffer heart attacks this year, and some will die simply because they don't recognize the early warning symptoms, says the American Heart Association. For free information about the symptoms send your name and a stamped self-addressed business-size envelope to the AHA, 120 Montgomery St., Suite 1050, S.F. 94104.

The League of Women Voters of San Francisco is holding a tour of the Presidio on Sat., Mar. 14, beginning at 10 a.m. The tour will be followed by a panel discussion from noon - 1:30 p.m. Reservations are required by Mar. 6. Call 921-1779 for more info.



A series of four free Thursday morning information sessions for seniors begins March 5 at the Salvation Senior Center, 360 Fourth St. Sponsored by the S.F. Federation of Retired Union Members, the two-hour discussions include information on various services available, such as "Health Care for Seniors" (Mar. 19); "Economy and Seniors (Apr. 2); and "Election Issue Affecting Seniors" (Apr. 9). For more info, call 267-6550.

A presentation of preliminary designs for the parking garage at the San Francisco General Hospital will be made at a public meeting Wednesday, Mar. 11 at 6:30 p.m. at Carr Auditorium on the hospital campus (Potrero Ave. near 23rd St.). For information regarding the meeting call Kevin Hagerty at the Dept. of Parking and Traffic, 554-9805.

San Franciscans are doing such a great job recycling that they will now be able to downscale to 20-gallon garbage containers with a decrease in their garbage bill. The smaller can rate is \$8.13 per month for a weekly pickup compared with the lowest rate now available — \$9.32 for the 32-gallon can. There are conditions, however. The rate applies to one 20-gallon can only and there must be no additional cans. Residents interested in making the switch should call the customer service representative at the phone number on their garbage bills.

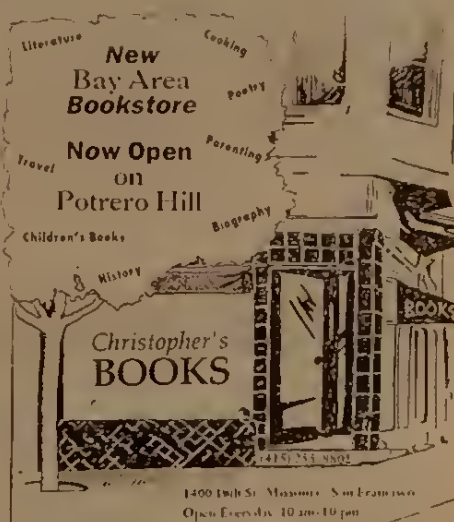
In the meantime, what to do with old 32-gallon cans? The San Francisco Recycling Program is compiling a list of ideas on how to reuse or where to donate the old cans. The program asks that residents phone the "Trash Can" hotline (554-3410) with their reuse or donation ideas. These ideas will be compiled and sent to all residents interested in making the switch to smaller cans.

What can small businesses or residents do if they want to support the arts but can't afford cash contributions. They can take their scrap color papers, left over pieces of fabric, extra tiles, yarn, wood, wire, etc. to Scrappers' Center for Re-usable Art Parts (SCRAP). SCRAP is a non-profit organization created to act as a clearinghouse for unwanted materials from businesses and individuals. It makes these materials available to teachers and students of San Francisco schools who use them as art supplies. San Francisco Recycling Program provided funding for the project. More information at 647-1319.

The aliens are invading! Alien plants, that is, and native plants and wildlife are being crowded out of San Francisco's parks and open spaces. Volunteer crews are needed to help the staff of the Recreation and Park Department remove alien vegetation. Tools and expertise will be provided, and volunteers may work on weekends or weekdays. Call Elaine Molinari, 666-7090, for information.

Entertainment around the Hill includes: Reception for Artist-of-the Month, Rory McNamara - photography exhibit, Mar. 3, 8-10 p.m.; Word Party, poetry reading with Whitman McGowan, John Norton, Eddie Stack, Patrick Coady, Mar. 10, 8-10 p.m.; St. Patrick's Irish music and dancers, March 17, 8-10 p.m.; Story Telling with Ron Jones and friends, March 24, 8-10 p.m. Seniors are invited to attend a St. Patrick's Day lunch and entertainment at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St., Mar. 17, 11:30 a.m. And live music happens Sundays, 1-5 p.m. at the Mission Rock Resort beginning April 5.

A game night, featuring dominoes, takes place at the Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St., March 6, from 6 p.m. Prizes will be offered to the first three winners. Call Ronald Hatter, 826-8080 for more info.



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UC San Francisco researchers are seeking women and men who have lost a loved one to AIDS to participate in a nationwide study of their experiences by completing a confidential questionnaire. The study could help design and implement programs to help people cope with AIDS-related deaths. Persons interested in participating may call toll-free number 1-800-934-5677.

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Mother - Daughter Tensions In Clear Cinematic Focus

By Julia Jaurigui

If you've been fortunate enough to see "An Angel at My Table" and it whetted your appetite for films made by women, then you can't afford to miss the Women Make Movies film and video festival. The six day festival, which celebrates the 20 year anniversary of Women Make Movies, the New York - based distributors of films and videos by and about women, opens at the Roxie Cinema, 3117 - 16th St., on Friday, March 27 and continues through Wednesday, April 1.

Opening night features local filmmaker Trinh T. Minh-ha's award-winning "Shoot For the Contents," a complex and visually exquisite film that investigates identity, culture, power and change, politics, and filmmaking in China. As in earlier works ("Reassemblage," "Naked Spaces: Living is Round," and "Surname Viet, Given Name Nam"), the Vietnamese-born filmmaker and musician takes a multifaceted approach to her subject and comes up with a densely textured and keenly intelligent film that engages viewers on both a visceral and intellectual level.

Always pushing the boundaries of documentary form, Trinh's "Shoot for the Contents" challenges the viewer to explore China from a perspective that is, as she says, situated "very precisely at the edge of the insider and outsider."

Using the ancient ruling class symbol of the dragon as a motif for power and change, Trinh reveals that China, much like the dragon, exists in many forms and is always in flux. The changing political and cultural appearances of China, most prominent during the events of Tiananmen Square, hold great fascination for both the filmmaker and her audience.

Featured in the Sunday late afternoon and evening "Double Bind" program — four short films devoted to the intense and often ambivalent bonds between mothers and daughters — are two cinematic gems that promise to speak to every woman's heart.

Ngozi Onwurah's "The Body Beautiful" is a powerful and intensely personal film that examines the real life relationship between the filmmaker and her mother, Marge Onwurah.

Onwurah, best known for her award-winning short "Coffee Colored Children," begins the 23-minute film by collapsing her family's early years into flashbacks and reminiscences narrated by both the director and her mother. This cinematic technique immediately propels the viewer into a world where Marge, pregnant and living apart from her Nigerian husband, contracts breast cancer and undergoes a mastectomy shortly after giving birth to a son.

While Marge struggles to raise her children and adjust to what she describes as her "deformed" body, her young daughter blossoms into a beauty and begins a career as a fashion model. It is only during a powerful and disturbing scene in a sauna, when Marge's towel slips down to reveal her scarred breast, that her daughter realizes how insensitive she and others are to women who do not live up to the standard of beauty imposed upon them.

"The Body Beautiful" raises issues of gender, race, sexuality, and sexism in a way that is seldom seen in commercial films. The power of the film lies in its ability to explore the complex and often painful mother-daughter bond, a relationship that more often than not is the most frustrating in a woman's life.

It is also quite remarkable to witness the courage of Marge Onwurah as she portrays herself in this poignant and fascinating film. There will be few women who will not be touched by the eloquence of the daughter's final commentary: "I am my mother's daughter for the rest of my life."

Another engaging and thought provoking short is Anna Campion's "The Audition." Anna, sister of Jane Campion ("An Angel at My Table"), has constructed a poignant exploration of a mother and daughter involved in a tug-of-wills relationship while they struggle to work together on a film. Using the film within a film device, Campion creates a self-reflexive film that captures the difficult but loving relationship between an outspoken mother and her independent daughter.

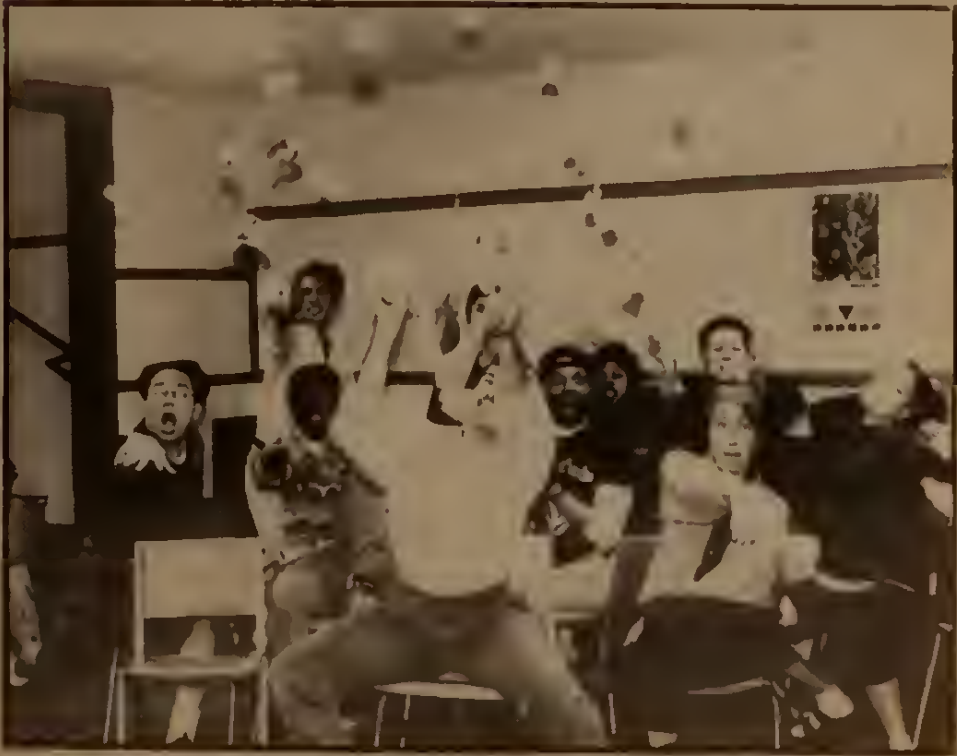
Jane, a filmmaker, visits Edith, her mother, to audition her for a small role in the film adaptation of Janet Frame's "An Angel at My Table." During the short visit, both women resort to their old patterns of behavior and spend more time nitpicking and arguing than working.

The intimacy, support, and reassurance that Edith yearns to hear from her

daughter is not forthcoming. It is during this moment that Edith, who in the twilight of her life is filled with regrets over having spent most of her adult life attending to the needs of others, becomes as vulnerable and needy as a small child in a dark room.

Although Jane makes noble efforts to prepare Edith for the audition, she often becomes insensitive, selfish, and resorts to bitchy sarcasm. Despite an inability or unwillingness to reach a workable understanding during the audition process, these magnificently stubborn women do succeed in providing the viewer with a uniquely entertaining and humorous film that crystallizes the age-old power struggle that dominates many mother-daughter relationships.

Also included in the six day festival



Youngsters greet the substitute teacher with a hail of paper wads in one scene in the new rock play, "Ceremonies," opening at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House Theatre March 20.

Bridging Generation Gap With "Ceremonies" at Nabe

"Ceremonies," a rock play by Joel Eis about bridging the generation gap is being presented by The New Company from March 20 - April 12 at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and at 2 p.m. on Sundays at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House Theatre, 953 Dellaro Street.

Tickets are \$6 for students/seniors, \$8 for adults, or \$12 for a parent with child. For more information call Eis at 285-6957.

In "Ceremonies" a teen-aged musician and his parents come to respect each other's point of view after several family crises. Along the way some painfully comic scenes on the absurdity of the high school experience are counterposed with the problems of growing up in the "psycho-nuclear '90s."

The play was performed in a workshop setting in 1988 at San Francisco's School of the Arts while Eis was an artist-in-residence at the school. "This gave me a unique opportunity to present the concerns of both the students and their parents. After the production the students said that their parents began to treat them differently and I heard similar stories from the other side of the dinner table as well," says Eis.

"I wanted to take it on tour and go into the schools, and they rejected it because instead of showing some kid screaming for a fix and dying as the lights went out, it asked the question 'What is the social vacuum that exists that makes drugs even attractive in the first place?'" Eis notes. "They weren't ready for that."

Eis is raising a 16-year-old daughter and stresses that "today's parents lived through the Kennedy-Vietnam-Hippie-Civil Rights-LSD-Watergate Era. The 90s are going to be an age of ending self-indulgence, of paying the price for avoiding our responsibilities. We are a confused, romantic, somewhat jaded generation. This play is about our parenting and our children and everybody in between. It is funny, painful and enlightening."

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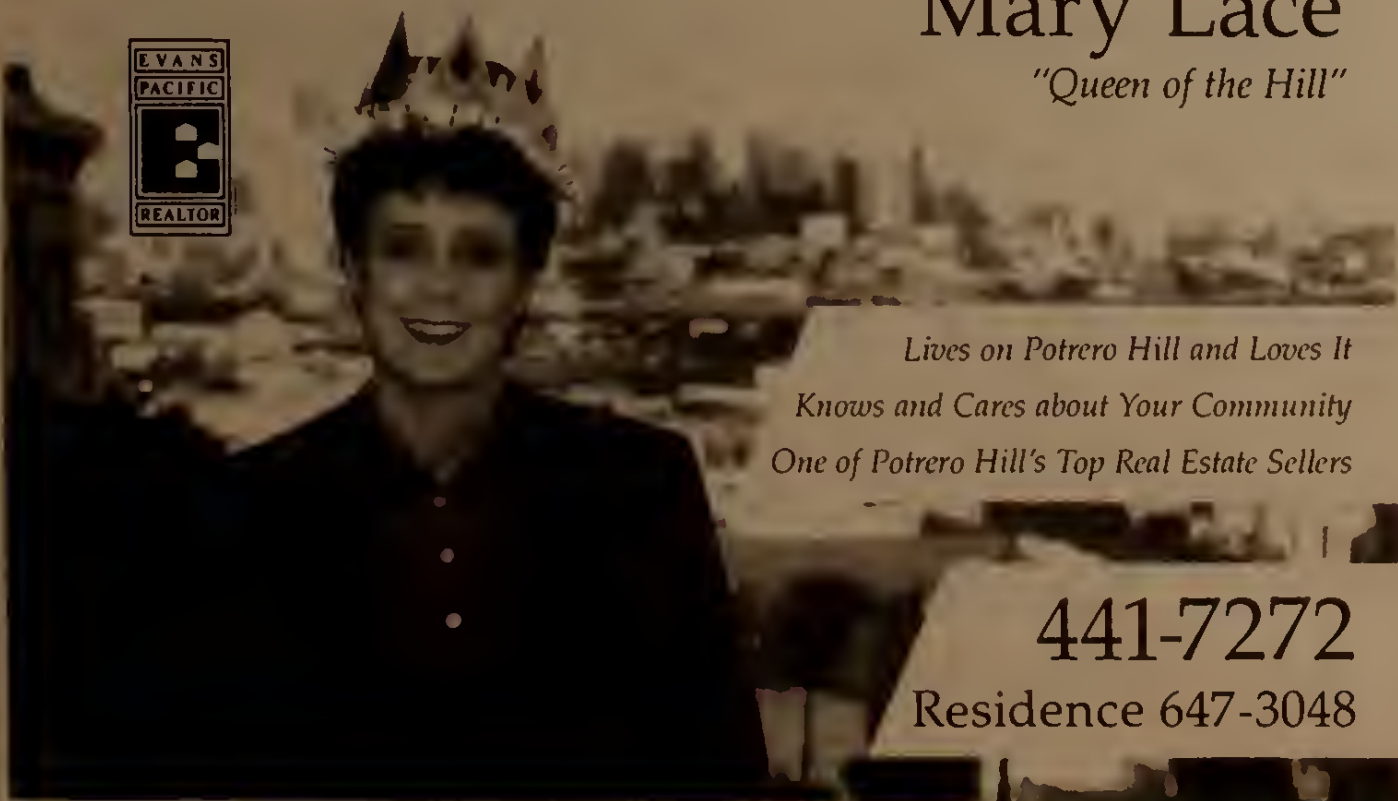
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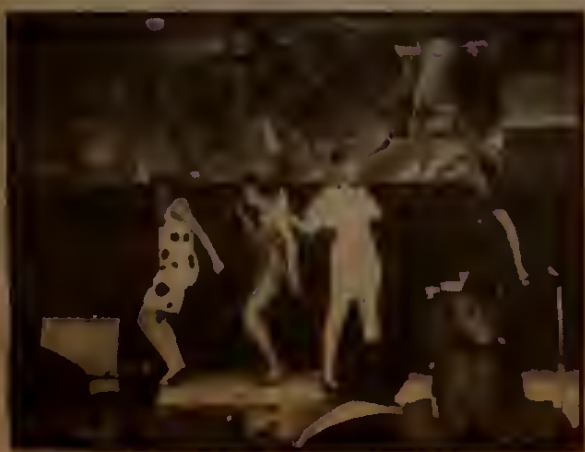
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YOUTH SALUTE BLACK HISTORY



A February 16 salute to Black History at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House included a variety of performances. Clockwise from top left: The Michael Rios band played a selection of jazz and rock numbers; two teenage rappers introduced their own works; the Ginga Brasil samba group danced; the Voguettes sang and danced; the Neighborhood House's youth choir sang the black traditional anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing"; and the young Fashionettes (ages 6-12) strutted and modeled clothes from the Nabe's sewing class.

Ruth Passen photos



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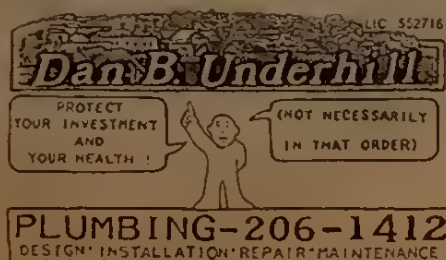
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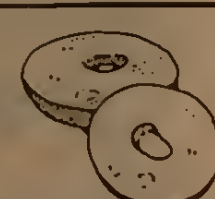
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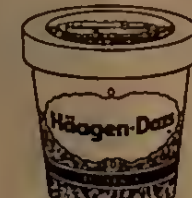


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